

same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart." In that spirit, I urge the group responsible for this commercial to withdraw it.

I hope our State and country can go the rest of this election campaign with no further appeals to racial fear or prejudice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ADVO

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate ADVO, Inc. in its recovery of its 100th missing child that has been featured on the "Have You Seen Me" direct mail cards.

For 15 years, ADVO has been a strong commitment to aiding in the recovery and return of missing children. In partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploitative Children and the United States Postal Service, ADVO launched its America's Looking for Its Missing Children program in 1985. Reaching an estimated 79 million homes each week with pictures of missing children, the familiar "Have You Seen Me" cards are constant reminders to the public that hundreds of thousands of children are missing annually in our country.

In total, more than 40 billion pictures of missing children have been distributed to date, and Americans have responded in an unprecedented way. We announced on July 31 the joyous reunion of a 5-year-old Pennsylvania girl with her mother, following an 18-month abduction, its 100th recovery of a safe child resulting from the familiar mail cards.

One in six children is found as a direct result of programs like ADVO. It takes a few seconds of our time to stop, look, and think about the children that are featured on posters, on the cards, and on television. Each time we see one, we are presented with an opportunity to reunite a family with their missing child.

Once again, congratulations to ADVO on its continued commitment to a very worthy cause.

EDUCATION IS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American people have made it clear that education is their number one priority this election season.

Too many of our children are stuck in schools that do not prepare them to compete in the world, and I am sorry to say that the Clinton-Gore administration simply has not measured up in

this area. Their rhetoric is great, it is even flowery; but they have not even met the goals they set for themselves.

In 1994, Clinton and Gore announced with great fanfare their goals for the year 2000, but they have fallen far short of the mark. They said the U.S. would be first in math and science by the year 2000. Instead, we have fallen to 17th in math and 21st in science. They said all our schools would be safe and drug free by the year 2000. Instead, school violence is worse than it has ever been. Drug use is still common. Their goal for 2000 was that all adults would be literate by now. Instead, 44 million adults still do not have basic reading skills.

Promises versus results. People care a lot more about results than promises.

A REPUBLIC CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT MORALS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a very special day for the district I have the honor of representing. On that day, 263 years ago, in 1737, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was born. Carroll County and Carroll Creek in my district was named for him.

Charles Carroll has received special honor here at the Capitol. His portrait hangs on the third floor, and a statue of him stands near the memorial entrance to the Capitol. Charles Carroll was a member of the first Congress and a framer of the Bill of Rights. He was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence and he was the final surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, dying in 1832 at the age of 95.

Charles Carroll was outspoken about his faith and declared that his religious convictions had caused him to enter the American Revolution. In fact, his faith was so important in his life that he built and personally funded a house of worship.

Charles Carroll, one of the very first Members of this body, reminded us, and I quote, "Without morals a Republic cannot subsist for any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

That is just as true today as it was then.

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ADDRESSING REAL AMERICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer we stood on this floor and pleaded with our Republican leaders not to enact reckless tax bills without securing the future of Medicare, Social Security, education, and to focus on paying down our debt.

During the recess I am sure that they, like I, talked to lots of people in our own districts who said that, yes, we would all like to have a tax cut, but we want to make sure we take care of business first.

Last week the leadership changed their stand and joined the Democratic concern to pay down the debt.

But time is running out.

Now we need to look at other Democratic priorities like affordable prescription drug benefits for our seniors who cannot buy the medication they need to maintain their health, investing in education to fix our crumbling schools and overcrowded schools so our children have a healthy environment to learn in, building our national defense, and taking care of our veterans who risked their lives to protect our country, and real managed care reform like we passed on this House floor, and most importantly, making sure Social Security is there not just for my dad's generation and my generation but our children's generation.

I have been listening to my constituents, and these are issues they want us to address, and I hope we will these last few weeks in session.

DATA ACT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, the Internet and the new economy offers great opportunity. We have over 100 million Americans that are online. Every second, seven more Americans go online. There are now 4.8 million Americans employed in the technology sector. That is more than auto and steel and oil combined. So there is a tremendous amount of opportunity.

Unfortunately, when I talk with my educators, teachers, school administrators, and school board members back home, they tell me they notice a difference in the classroom when children have a computer and Internet access at home and those who do not. Many call that the digital divide.

I am pleased to say that the private sector has been stepping forward. Ford, Intel, Delta, American Airlines have stepped forward and are now offering to their employees, as an employee benefit, a computer and Internet access for use at home, benefitting 600,000 families. That is going to help.

Think about it. The laborer, the assembly line worker, the baggage handler, the flight attendant, their children having a computer and Internet

access at home to do their schoolwork just like the CEO and the manager's child.

Here is the catch, though. The IRS wants to tax that computer provided to that employee. And, of course, we need to stop that. Let us pass the data act. I ask for cosponsorship and bipartisan support.

AMERICANS WANT REAL QUALITY HEALTH CARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the one thing that Americans are now crying out for is real quality health care, restore the relationship between patient and physician, and have this Congress pass a real Patient's Bill of Rights.

And then if we listen to their cry for the seniors, we have one needy senior, one needed prescription drug, and a cost of \$400 for one dose.

It is absolutely imperative when we begin to multiply the cost of \$400 times thousands and thousands of seniors that we provide the opportunity for equal access to lower price prescription drugs for our seniors, get a real importation bill to allow prescription drugs to come in so that seniors can be taken care of and, yes, have a real prescription drug benefit, a guaranteed Medicare benefit.

This is what the Democrats have been advocating. Why can our colleagues on the other side of the aisle not join us to support our seniors to ensure, one, a real Patient's Bill of Rights and, two, real importation as it is in the agriculture conference on the Senate side to provide for lower-cost access to prescription drugs?

MEDIA DISPLAYS DOUBLE-STANDARD

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the double-standard that often exists in today's media coverage is obvious. For example, the major networks all provide the Democrats with more convention coverage than the Republicans. More coverage is also given to liberal positions.

Take the issue of gun control. Guns are consistently portrayed as the weapons of criminals. We never hear about a tragedy being averted or a life being saved because a law-abiding citizen was armed with a gun.

Media bias also censors ads. Both the New York Times and USA Today refused to run ads against partial-birth abortions.

This week AL GORE made up a story about what prescription drugs cost his

mother-in-law, and the media all but ignored it.

Why does the media display such a liberal bias? Simply because journalists are more liberal than the rest of us.

A 1996 Roper Center survey found that 89 percent of Washington political writers voted for the Clinton/Gore ticket in 1992, only 9 percent supported George Bush.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES ARE AGAINST REIMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, seniors face skyrocketing prices for their prescription drugs. Many choose between purchasing their medications and buying groceries. We need a prescription drug benefit through Medicare. It is a necessity that would bring dignity to our seniors' lives and we need to do this.

In addition, the House needs to fight for lower prices. In July we passed an amendment to allow U.S. pharmacists to be able to purchase prescription drugs at the same low prices paid for in other countries, 20, 30, sometimes 50 percent less for the same drug, and then pass the savings along to seniors.

It is common sense. It will bring seniors relief from the crushing costs of prescription drugs. The pharmaceutical companies are waging an all-out campaign against reimportation. It is time we stood up for our seniors. It is time that the Republican leadership stop using empty rhetoric and protect our seniors' right to affordable prescription drugs. We should allow reimportation of prescription drugs, and we should do it now.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ADMINISTER FIRST AID TO HOSPITALS

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I stood behind the Balanced Budget Act when it was passed in 1997. We all believed it was a good bill that addressed fraud and abuse in Medicare billing. But now, 3 years down the road, we are seeing unintended consequences of this bill.

In 1997, Congress estimated the Balanced Budget Act would cut \$116 billion in fraudulent Medicare payments. Current projection, however, estimate \$227 billion in cuts. These cuts, almost double the original projection, go well beyond fraud and abuse. These cuts threaten vital hospital services.

Walls Regional Hospital in my district serves a growing but primarily rural area, Cleburne, Texas. The hos-

pital recently expanded its Skilled Nursing section from 12 to 25 beds. Just as Walls finished their expansion, the Balanced Budget Act reduced the reimbursement rate for skilled nursing by 70 percent, a loss of a million dollars a year for Walls. Today, despite community needs, the Skilled Nursing facility is down to 11 beds.

It is stories like this that remind us to prioritize our Nation's health services. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to administer first aid to our hospitals.

REIMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a constituent in Queens, New York, who pays \$409 for a 3-month supply of Prilosec for his wife. The same drug, the same dosage, same everything, would cost him \$184 in Canada. But it is illegal for him to purchase this medication in Canada and reimport it back into the U.S.

The only crime I see here is the high prices being charged by drug companies. They are truly gouging Americans.

Therefore, I am working with a number of my colleagues to allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to reimport prescription drugs back into the U.S. and pass the tremendous savings on to all Americans.

The GOP Congress will not pass a Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act.

The GOP Congress will not pass a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

Well, now I challenge this Congress to allow for the safe reimportation of FDA-approved drugs for Americans. It would lower drug costs by 50 percent overnight without costing the Government of this country one single dime.

Let me say this to America: The drug companies oppose this plan, this bill. Therefore, we all know it must be good for America.

WHY THIS LARGE CIGARETTE TAX?

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let me pose a mathematical problem. When the President finally finishes his budget negotiations with the Congress, he will have spent the projected budget surplus and more.

Where will he go to find the money to finance his liberal spending programs? How about a big cigarette tax? That ought to make everyone happy.

In the North Carolina Senate, when we raised the tax, guess what happened. Tax incomes shrank, as it did in